

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
US Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, PCT
2011 South Clark Place Room
CP2/5C24
Arlington, VA 22202
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 11 May 2001 (11.05.01)	
International application No. PCT/US00/16183	Applicant's or agent's file reference 7611M
International filing date (day/month/year) 13 June 2000 (13.06.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 14 June 1999 (14.06.99)
Applicant YOUNG, Sara, Elizabeth et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
11 January 2001 (11.01.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Kiwa Mpay Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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International Bureau



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21 December 2000 (21.12.2000)

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(21) International Application Number: **PCT/US00/16183**

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(74) Agents: **REED, T. David et al.**; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 (US).

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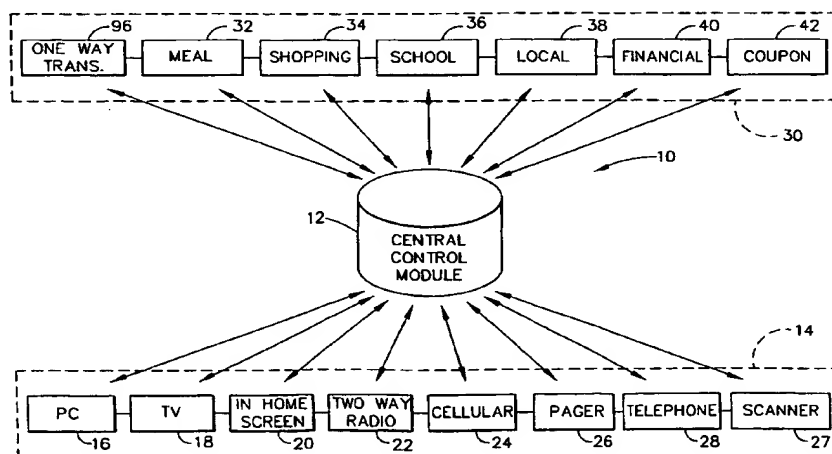
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Published:

— *With international search report.*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **FAMILY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**



(57) Abstract: A computer assisted integrated family information management system and method of managing information within members of a family, where the system allows family members to maintain contact, while also receiving helpful, and often necessary, information regarding a family's daily activities. The family information management system includes a central control module containing at least one family data file, at least one user interface system for transferring information to and receiving information from the family data file of the central control module, and at least one information source connected to the central control module from which relevant family information is obtained. The information obtained from the information source is processed with information stored in the family data file of the central control module to create value-added family information which is accessible in the central control module through the user interface system. A method for assisting family members and a method for developing consumer understanding information relating to family lifestyles related to the family information management system is also provided.

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(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern 1al Application No

PCT/US 00/16183

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ, IBM-TDB, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GB 2 141 565 A (SANYO ELECTRIC CO LTD) 19 December 1984 (1984-12-19) page 1, left-hand column, line 1 - line 21; claim 1	1-37
A	US 5 884 282 A (ROBINSON GARY B) 16 March 1999 (1999-03-16) cited in the application the whole document	27-33
A	US 5 842 200 A (AGRAWAL ET AL.) 24 November 1998 (1998-11-24) cited in the application the whole document	27-33

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

g document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 December 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

02/01/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/16183

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB 2141565 A	19-12-1984	JP 59225475 A	18-12-1984
		JP 1022946 B	28-04-1989
		JP 1538924 C	16-01-1990
		JP 59225476 A	18-12-1984
		JP 59225477 A	18-12-1984
		JP 1576546 C	24-08-1990
		JP 2000740 B	09-01-1990
		JP 59225478 A	18-12-1984
		JP 59225479 A	18-12-1984
US 5884282 A	16-03-1999	US 5790426 A	04-08-1998
US 5842200 A	24-11-1998	US 5615341 A	25-03-1997
		US 5794209 A	11-08-1998
		EP 0742524 A	13-11-1996
		JP 8314981 A	29-11-1996
		EP 0735497 A	02-10-1996
		JP 8287106 A	01-11-1996

REC'D 24 SEP 2001

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 7611M	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/16183	International filing date (day/month/year) 13/06/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 14/06/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F17/60		
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY		



1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 10 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☒ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 11/01/2001	Date of completion of this report 20.09.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Sadoune, M-M Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8256 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/16183

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-36 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-37 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1-12 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

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EXAMINATION REPORT**

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☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 27.

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 27 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

IV. Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:

☐ restricted the claims.

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EXAMINATION REPORT**

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- ☐ paid additional fees.
- ☐ paid additional fees under protest.
- ☒ neither restricted nor paid additional fees.
2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
- ☐ complied with.
- ☐ not complied with for the following reasons:
4. Consequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary examination in establishing this report:
- ☐ all parts.
- ☒ the parts relating to claims Nos. 1-27.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims 1-26
	No: Claims
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims
	No: Claims 1-26
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims 1-37
	No: Claims

**2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet**

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

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--- see separate sheet

1 Unity (IV)

- 1) The application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention according to Article 3(4)(iii) and Rule 13.1 PCT.

The following separate inventions or groups of inventions are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept which would be expressed in terms of corresponding special technical features in the sense of Rule 13.2 PCT.

Invention 1:

Claims 1-27 relate to a family information system to create value-added family information.

Invention 2:

Claims 28-33 relate to a method for developing consumer understanding information relating to family lifestyles.

Invention 3:

Claims 34-37 relate to managing family information involving converting voice and text information.

The only features which are common to the independent claims relate to control module, data file, user interface or family information which are known or do not involve an inventive step as discussed below.

- 2) In the absence of any response from the applicant to the invitation to restrict or to pay additional fees, the international preliminary examination is now restricted to the first invention corresponding to claims 1-27.
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2 Conciseness (VIII)

The various definitions of the invention given in the independent claims 17 and 27 are

such that the claims as a whole are not concise, contrary to the requirements of Article 6 PCT and Guidelines C-III, 5.1 PCT.

The claims should be recast to include a single independent claim in any one category with dependent claims as appropriate, Rule 6.4 PCT.

The formulation of the claims additionally gives rise to an objection of a lack of clarity according to Article 6 PCT, since the repetitions and the variations in wording make it unclear what the applicant considers the essential features of the invention, thereby making it unduly difficult to determine the matter for which protection is sought.

3 Non-establishment of opinion (III)

Claim 27 is not examined in view of the above clarity and conciseness issues.

4 Novelty and Inventive Step (V)

The subject-matter of claims 1-26 does not involve an inventive step.

a) Claim 1:

Control module, data file, user interface are usual components of an information system.

The mere nature of the information being family information does not involve an inventive step.

Creating value-added information by combining information from various sources is usual.

b) Claims 2-5:

Retrieving, accessing, sending, obtaining information are usual operations of an information management system.

c) Claims 6-9:

The conditions in which the central control module obtains information do not seem

to be disclosed in the prior art. However a technical problem solved by the features of these claims could not be identified.

d) Claim 10:

Determining information according to information in a file is usual.

e) Claim 11:

A data storage for storing a file is usual.

f) Claims 12-14:

Voice recognition system, messaging, reminder function are known in the field of information management systems and their mere presence does not involve an inventive step.

g) Claims 15-16:

Considering a part of a system as internal or external to the system may be viewed as a mere presentation issue.

h) Claims 17-25:

The features of the method claims 17-25 have been discussed with the system claims 1-15.

i) Claim 26:

Forwarding information is usual. The time constraints of claim 26 are vague and are required in many systems.

j) The applicant should formulate a technical problem over the prior art and explain how the problem is solved by the features of the independent claims.

5 Further Unity Objections (IV)

Once the claims corresponding to invention 1 have been analysed, it appears that invention 1 should be divided in multiple inventions.

The structure of the system claims 1-16 is the following.

Claim 1 describes an information management system with usual components in general terms, such that the subject-matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step.

Claims 2-16 all depend on claim 1 and no common feature could be identified in these dependent claims. Moreover these dependent claims do not seem to relate to a common technical issue.

Thus it is considered that the subject-matters of the dependent claims 2-16 are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept which would be expressed in terms of corresponding special technical features in the sense of Rule 13.2 PCT.

The independent method claim 17 and the dependent claims 18-26 have the same structure as the system claims and the same remarks apply.

Thus it is considered that the subject-matters of the dependent claims 18-26 are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept which would be expressed in terms of corresponding special technical features in the sense of Rule 13.2 PCT.

6 Formal Remarks (VII)

- a) The apparatus and the method claims should be made consistent.
- b) The independent claims should be cast in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT.
- c) Reference signs in parentheses should be inserted in the claims to increase their

intelligibility in accordance with Rule 6.2(b) PCT.

- d)** The description should be made consistent with the claims for each invention.
- e)** The summary of the invention should refer to an apparatus and a method provided by the invention according to claims 1 and X.
- f)** Embodiments no longer covered by claim 1 should be excised from the description or designated as not embodying the invention.
- g)** The prior art document D1 should be acknowledged in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein should be briefly discussed in accordance with Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT.
- h)** The statement relating to the "spirit" of the invention at page 36 of the description should be deleted in accordance with Article 6 PCT and Guidelines C-III, 4.3a PCT.